

Lesson 16- Acts 13:1-43

Answering God's Call

Can you think of a time when one of your parents sent you on an errand? Maybe it was to find another person and deliver a message, or maybe you were asked to make a delivery to someone or bring something home.

The Apostle Paul was sent on an errand, but this errand was a mission from God to deliver a message. The word "apostle" comes from the Greek and means "sent one." God sent Paul the apostle on missionary journeys throughout the Roman Empire, spreading the Word to anyone who would hear it.

Jesus had promised that the apostles would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and to the remotest parts of the earth. While the ministry to the believers in Jerusalem was still important, the Gospel of Christ was spreading farther and farther to what was then the edge of the known world.

Paul's First Journey



Into the Word: Acts 13:1-43

The Apostle Paul was to play a very important part in the work of spreading the Gospel. At this time, Paul was working in the church at Antioch.

1. What was the church instructed to do? v.2 *Set apart Saul and Barnabas to follow God's leading*
2. What four things did the congregation do? v.3
 - *fasted*
 - *prayed*
 - *laid hands on Saul and Barnabas*
 - *sent them on their way*

Paul and Barnabas began their missionary travels by going to the island of Cyprus.

3. Starting in the city of Salamis, what did they begin to do? v.5 *They went to the synagogues and proclaimed the Word of God.*

They traveled through the whole island preaching the Gospel. In the city of Paphos, they met a Jewish magician named Bar-Jesus.

The proconsul in Paphos, Sergius Paulus, was an intelligent man. His role was similar to a modern-day mayor. He wanted to hear the word of God from Barnabas and Saul.

The Jewish magician was in the proconsul's inner circle. This magician, Bar-Jesus, also called Elymas, opposed the missionaries, and tried to convince the proconsul to turn away from the faith.

4. How did Saul (also called Paul) react in verses 9-10?

- Called the magician a 'son of the devil,' full of deceit.
- Accused him of making *crooked the straight ways of the Lord*

As a consequence, Elymas became blind. But the proconsul was amazed at what had happened and believed in the teaching of the Lord (vv.11-12).

Paul and Barnabas left Cyprus, sailed to Perga, and arrived in Pisidian Antioch, where they went to the synagogue and were invited to preach.

5. Paul began his sermon by reviewing Jewish history. List some of the events mentioned in verses 17-26.

- *God's choosing of the patriarchs or fathers*
- *deliverance from Egypt*
- *mercy toward Israel during the 40 years in the desert*
- *destruction of the heathen nations in Canaan*
- *settling of the promised land*
- *provision of King Saul and King David*
- *John the Baptist; the promise of Jesus, a descendant of David and finally, Jesus' coming.*

The focus of Paul's sermon was Jesus. In verses 26-31, Paul described how Jesus was condemned by the Jewish rulers. He was wrongly put to death and executed under Pilate. He was crucified, taken down from the cross, and buried. God raised Him from the dead, and Jesus appeared to His followers. Now these followers were spreading the message of Jesus.

Then Paul reminded the Jews that long ago God had promised His children the blessing of eternal life.

6. List two other blessings found in verses 38-39. *Forgiveness of sins and freedom from the obligations and punishments of the Law*

7. How did the people who heard his sermon respond to Paul? vv.42-43 *They all wanted Paul and Barnabas to keep teaching them.*

New Ideas: God's Call

Antioch was a port city about 300 miles north of Jerusalem. God provided prophets and teachers for the church in Antioch (Acts 13:1).

While working in Antioch, Saul and Barnabas were chosen to go as missionaries. Remember, it was not Saul or Barnabas who decided what to do, or even the congregation. It was God (v.2).

God is still calling missionaries today as the Holy Spirit works through the Word. Who are some missionaries you know? God uses people for amazing things as people listen to His leading and follow His call! What would you do if God called you to be a missionary?

Memory Verse

Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

Acts 13:2

Extra Memory Challenge

Acts 13:2

*“And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said,
‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”*

Discussion Questions

Each teacher should encourage, as much as time permits, discussion and inquiry on the part of students. Not every aspect of the following questions is addressed here, and students may have thoughts related to but not mentioned in this guide. The obligation of the teacher, then, is to understand as deeply as possible the Scriptures that are being discussed, in order to answer as well as possible any questions a student might have.

1. Paul's sermon in the synagogue in Antioch reviewed the history of the Jewish people and then focused on Jesus. Why is it so important that the death and resurrection of Jesus be emphasized in sermons? *Our eternal salvation depends entirely on the reality of these facts: Jesus died for our sins, defeating Satan; His resurrection proclaims God's power, declaring that we, too, will be raised from the dead and will live in heaven with Him forever.*

2. Acts 13:1 tells about a group of men whom God was using to lead the church in the city of Antioch. What do Ephesians 4:11-12 and I Corinthians 12:18 say about how God uses each person in a congregation to be a part of His work? How might God use you? *Eph. 4:11-12 touch on the fact that God gives the church people with various gifts and skills which can all work together to make the congregation strong, building up the body of Christ. In 1 Cor. 12:18 we learn of God's deliberateness in placing each person in each congregation, just as He sees fit. It is important for every believer to understand he or she has an important purpose in the body of Christ, no matter what their age. Even teenagers have a role to play.*

Daily Devotions

Sunday:	Matthew 9:36-10:8
Monday:	Matthew 4:18-22
Tuesday:	Matthew 9:9-13
Wednesday:	Matthew 28:19-20
Thursday:	John 14:8-14
Friday:	I Corinthians 15:1-10
Saturday:	Romans 10:1-10

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH: THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE AFLC

* Fundamental Principle 3

According to the Word of God, the congregation has an outward form. There is a membership list (Acts 5:14), election of officers, and set times and places for meetings. It is good for a congregation to do things in order (I Corinthians 14:40).

1. Why is it important for a congregation to be organized?

In Acts 5:14, a list was kept of those being added to the church. God commanded that the church do all things decently and in order in I Corinthians 14:40. The congregation at Corinth was fractured and divided with many people claiming to be right and wanting their opinions to be heard. This disorder was turning people away from Christ. I Corinthians 14:33 says, "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace." People need order. Chaos is confusing.

2. To what offices were men appointed in the Early Church? (Acts 13:1-3, 14:23)

Some were appointed prophets and teachers. Some were appointed elders and apostles. See also Acts 6:1-6.